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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

VERONICA MCLEOD, individually and as  
successor in interest to decedent, DOLORES  
HERNANDEZ; AMADO HERNANDEZ,  
individually and as successor in interest to  
decedent, DOLORES HERNANDEZ; and  
YSIDRA REGALDO, individually,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

CITY OF REDDING; GARRETT  
MAXWELL, an individual; MATTHEW  
BRUCE, an individual; and DOES 1-10,  
inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:22-cv-00585-WBS-JDP

*Honorable William B. Shubb  
Hon. Magistrate Jeremy D. Peterson*

**PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO  
DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR  
SUMMARY JUDGMENT OR IN THE  
ALTERNATIVE SUMMARY  
ADJUDICATION**

*[Filed concurrently with Plaintiffs' Response to  
Defendants' Statement and Statement of  
Disputed Facts; Declarations of Hang D. Le  
and Scott DeFoe; and exhibits thereto]*

Date: June 10, 2024  
Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Ctm: 5

Trial: September 10, 2024

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

I.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
II.	STATEMENT OF FACTS.....	3
A.	Bruce and Maxwell Respond to a Call Regarding a Disturbance and Bruce Makes Contact with Decedent.....	3
B.	Decedent Attempts to Leave the Shopping Plaza .....	4
C.	The Officers Escalate the Encounter in an Attempt to Take Decedent into Custody.....	5
D.	Maxwell Shoots and Kills Decedent .....	6
E.	The Officers’ Pre-Force Conduct and Uses of Force Violated Standard Police Practices and Training .....	7
III.	LEGAL STANDARD .....	9
IV.	ARGUMENT .....	11
A.	Maxwell and Bruce Unreasonably Seized Decedent When Bruce Struck Decedent’s Window and Maxwell Deflated Decedent’s Tire with His Knife .....	11
B.	Maxwell and Bruce Used Excessive and Unreasonable Force, Including Deadly Force .....	12
1.	Decedent Had Not Committed a Crime .....	13
2.	Decedent was Not Actively Resisting Arrest or Attempting to Evade Arrest by Flight .....	13
3.	Bruce’s Baton Strikes were Excessive and Unreasonable .....	14
4.	The Shooting of Decedent was Excessive and Unreasonable.....	16
5.	Bruce Integrally Participated in the Use of Deadly Force Against Decedent.....	18
6.	Additional Factors Weigh Against the Reasonableness of the Uses of Force, Including Maxwell’s Use of Deadly Force.....	18
7.	The Cases Cited by Defendants in Support of Their Argument are Materially Distinguishable from the Facts of this Case .....	20
C.	Maxwell and Bruce are Not Entitled to Qualified Immunity Under Plaintiffs’ Fourth Amendment Excessive Force Claim.....	22
1.	It was Clearly Established that Bruce’s Baton Strikes Violated the Constitution .....	23
2.	It was Clearly Established that the Shooting of Decedent Violated the Constitution .....	25

1	D.	Maxwell and Bruce Violated Plaintiffs’ Fourteenth Amendment Right to Against Unlawful Interference with Familial Relations .....	26
2	E.	Summary Judgment Must Be Denied on Plaintiffs’ State Law Battery Claim .....	28
3	F.	Maxwell and Bruce were Negligent in Their Pre-Force Conduct and Use of Force.....	29
4	G.	Maxwell and Bruce Violated the Bane Act.....	31
5	V.	CONCLUSION .....	32

7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

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Cases

1		
2		
3		
4	<i>A.D. v. State of Cal. Highway Patrol,</i>	
	712 F.3d 446 (9th Cir. 2013).....	24, 27
5	<i>A.K.H. v. City of Tustin,</i>	
	837 F.3d 1005 (9th Cir. 2016).....	16
6		
7	<i>Acosta v. City &amp; Cnty. of San Francisco,</i>	
	83 F.3d 1143 (9th Cir. 1996).....	25
8	<i>Adickes v. S.H. Kress &amp; Co.,</i>	
	398 U.S. 144 (1970) .....	10
9		
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	187 F. App'x 655 (9th Cir. 2006).....	17
11	<i>Anderson v. Creighton,</i>	
	483 U.S. 635 (1987) .....	22
12		
13	<i>Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.,</i>	
	477 U.S. 242 (1986) .....	10
14	<i>Ashcroft v. al-Kidd,</i>	
	563 U.S. 731 (2011) .....	22
15		
16	<i>B.B. v. Cnty. of Los Angeles,</i>	
	10 Cal. 5th 1 (2020).....	31
17	<i>B.B. v. Cnty. of Los Angeles,</i>	
	25 Cal. App. 5th 115 (2018).....	31
18		
19	<i>Blankenhorn v. City of Orange,</i>	
	485 F.3d 463 (9th Cir. 2007).....	18
20	<i>Boyd v. Benton Cnty.,</i>	
	374 F.3d 773 (9th Cir. 2004).....	18
21		
22	<i>Branscum v. San Ramon Police Dep't,</i>	
	505 Fed. App'x 860 (9th Cir. 2005).....	11
23	<i>Brosseau v. Haugen,</i>	
	543 U.S. 194 (2004) .....	22
24		
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	630 F.3d 805 (9th Cir. 2010).....	13, 14, 19
26	<i>Chuman v. Wright,</i>	
	76 F.3d 292, 294-95 (9th Cir. 1996) .....	18
27		
28	<i>Cnty. of Sacramento v. Lewis,</i>	
	523 U.S. 833 (1998) .....	26

1	<i>Deorle v. Rutherford</i> ,	
2	272 F.3d 1272 (9th Cir. 2001).....	15, 22
3	<i>Drummond v. City of Anaheim</i> ,	
4	343 F.3d 1052 (9th Cir. 2003).....	19
5	<i>Estate of Aguirre v. Cnty. of Riverside</i> ,	
6	29 F.4th 624 (9th Cir. 2022).....	24
7	<i>Estate of Lopez v. Gelhaus</i> ,	
8	871 F.3d 998 (9th Cir. 2017).....	22
9	<i>Fewell v. California</i> ,	
10	CV 16-1934 DSF (JEMx), 2017 WL 6043080 (C.D. Cal. Apr. 11, 2017) .....	21
11	<i>Ford v. City of Yakima</i> ,	
12	706 F.3d 1188 (9th Cir. 2013).....	22
13	<i>Funke v. Hatten</i> ,	
14	Case No. 2:19-cv-01335-RFB-EJY, 2021 WL 2346003 (D. Nev. June 8, 2021).....	17
15	<i>Gantt v. City of Los Angeles</i> ,	
16	717 F.3d 702 (9th Cir. 2013).....	26
17	<i>Glenn v. Washington Cnty.</i> ,	
18	673 F.3d 864 (9th Cir. 2011).....	19
19	<i>Gonzalez v. City of Anaheim</i> ,	
20	747 F.3d 789 (9th Cir. 2014).....	10
21	<i>Graham v. Connor</i> ,	
22	490 U.S. 386 (1989) .....	12, 13
23	<i>Grudt v. City of Los Angeles</i> ,	
24	2 Cal.3d 575 (1970).....	30
25	<i>Haugen v. Brosseau</i> ,	
26	339 F.3d 857 (9th Cir. 2003).....	23
27	<i>Hayes v. Cnty. of San Diego</i> ,	
28	57 Cal.4th 622 (2013).....	29, 30
	<i>Holland v. Azevedo</i> ,	
	Case No. 14-cv-01349-JST, 2016 WL 1754446 (N.D. Cal. May 3, 2016).....	21
	<i>Hope v. Pelzer</i> ,	
	536 U.S. 730 (2002) .....	23, 24
	<i>Hughes v. Rodriguez</i> ,	
	31 F.4th 1211 (9th Cir. 2022).....	31
	<i>Johnson v. White</i> ,	
	725 F. App'x 868 (9th Cir. 2018).....	23

1	<i>K.H. Through Murphy v. Morgan,</i>	
2	914 F.2d 846 (7th Cir. 1990).....	22
3	<i>Kirby v. Duva,</i>	
4	530 F.3d 475 (6th Cir. 2008).....	25
5	<i>Kosakoff v. City of San Diego,</i>	
6	No. 08-CV-1819, 2010 WL 1759455 (S.D. Cal. Apr. 29, 2010).....	26
7	<i>Lake Nacimiento Ranch Co. v. San Luis Obispo Cnty.,</i>	
8	841 F.2d 872 (9th Cir. 1987).....	10
9	<i>Liston v. Cnty. of Riverside,</i>	
10	120 F.3d 965 (9th Cir. 1997).....	10
11	<i>Mendez v. Cnty. of Los Angeles,</i>	
12	897 F.3d 1067 (9th Cir. 2018).....	30
13	<i>Monzon v. City of Murrieta,</i>	
14	978 F.3d 1150 (9th Cir. 2020).....	20
15	<i>Morgan v. Woessner,</i>	
16	997 F.2d 1244 (9th Cir. 1993).....	11
17	<i>Mulligan v. Nichols,</i>	
18	835 F.3d 983 (9th Cir. 2016).....	30
19	<i>Munoz v. City of Union City,</i>	
20	120 Cal. App. 4th 1077 (2004).....	28
21	<i>Munoz v. Olin,</i>	
22	24 Cal. 3d 629 (1979).....	30
23	<i>Orn v. City of Tacoma,</i>	
24	949 F.3d 1167 (9th Cir. 2020).....	16, 19, 25
25	<i>Patterson v. City of Wildwood,</i>	
26	354 Fed. App'x 695 (3d Cir. 2009).....	11
27	<i>Price v. Sery,</i>	
28	513 F.3d 952 (9th Cir. 2008).....	16
	<i>Prison Legal News v. Lehman,</i>	
	397 F.3d 692 (9th Cir. 2005).....	22
	<i>Reese v. Cnty. of Sacramento,</i>	
	888 F.3d 1030 (9th Cir. 2018).....	31
	<i>Rivas-Villegas v. Cortesluna,</i>	
	595 U.S. 1 (2021).....	24
	<i>Robbins v. Chronister,</i>	
	156 F. Supp. 2d 1211 (D. Kansas 2001).....	24

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2	663 F.3d 1071 (9th Cir. 2011).....	11
3	<i>S.R. Nehad v. Browder</i> ,	
4	929 F.3d 1125 (9th Cir. 2019).....	18, 19
5	<i>Salvato v. Miley</i> ,	
6	790 F.3d 1286 (11th Cir. 2015).....	13
7	<i>Santos v. Gates</i> ,	
8	287 F.3d 846 (9th Cir. 2002).....	10, 13
9	<i>Saucier v. Katz</i> ,	
10	533 U.S. 194 (2001) .....	22, 25
11	<i>Scott v. Harris</i> ,	
12	550 U.S. 372 (2007) .....	10
13	<i>Scott v. Henrich</i> ,	
14	39 F.3d 912 (9th Cir. 1994).....	10
15	<i>Shreve v. Franklin Cnty., Ohio</i> ,	
16	743 F.3d 126 (6th Cir. 2014).....	11
17	<i>Smith v. City of Hemet</i> ,	
18	394 F.3d 689 (9th Cir. 2005).....	10
19	<i>Smith v. Cupp</i> ,	
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22	290 F.3d 965 (9th Cir. 2002).....	22
23	<i>Tabares v. City of Huntington Beach</i> ,	
24	988 F.3d 1119 (9th Cir. 2021).....	17, 30
25	<i>Taylor v. Riojas</i> ,	
26	592 U.S. 7 (2020) .....	24
27	<i>Tennessee v. Garner</i> ,	
28	471 U.S. 1 (1985) .....	16
	<i>Tennison v. City &amp; Cnty. of San Francisco</i> ,	
	570 F.3d 1078 (9th Cir. 2009).....	26
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	790 F.2d 789 (9th Cir. 1986).....	11
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	986 F.3d 1158 (9th Cir. 2021).....	16, 25
	<i>Vos v. City of Newport Beach</i> ,	
	992 F.3d 1024 (9th Cir. 2019) .....	10, 11

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2	227 F.3d 1214 (9th Cir. 2000).....	22
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4	137 S. Ct. 548 (2017) .....	26
5	<i>Wilkinson v. Torres</i> ,	
6	610 F.3d 546 (9th Cir. 2010).....	21, 26
7	<i>Young v. Cnty. of Los Angeles</i> ,	
8	655 F.3d 1156 (9th Cir. 2011).....	14, 15
9	<i>Zion v. Cnty. of Orange</i> ,	
10	874 F.3d 1072 (9th Cir. 2017).....	17

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12	(Deadly Force) – Essential Factual Elements (2023).....	28, 29



1                   **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN OPPOSITION OF**  
2                   **DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

3                   **I. INTRODUCTION**

4                   This civil rights case arises out of City of Redding police officer encounter with Dolores  
5                   Hernandez (“Decedent”) that resulted in her shooting death on December 2, 2020. Officers Garret  
6                   Maxwell (“Maxwell”) and Matthew Bruce (“Bruce”) responded to a general disturbance call in a  
7                   shopping plaza in Redding, California and proceeded to have an encounter with Decedent.  
8                   Viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to Plaintiffs as required at the summary judgment  
9                   stage, Decedent had not committed a crime nor was she resisting arrest nor attempting to flee  
10                  when Bruce and Maxwell approached Decedent’s vehicle to terminate the vehicle’s movement,  
11                  and without any attempts at communication, commands, or warning. Bruce used a baton to strike  
12                  Decedent’s driver side window in an attempt to smash the window open and pull Decedent out  
13                  while Maxwell used a knife to deflate Decedent’s left rear tire. While the officers were using  
14                  excessive and unreasonable force to unreasonably detain Decedent, the vehicle reversed and Bruce  
15                  fell to the ground near the vehicle’s left front tire. Bruce then directed Maxwell to shoot Decedent  
16                  and Maxwell discharged his firearm seven times into the car—with all seven shots striking  
17                  Decedent. Decedent did not pose an immediate threat of death or serious bodily injury to Bruce or  
18                  anyone else at the time of the shooting as Bruce was not pinned underneath the car, was not in the  
19                  direct pathway of the car, and the vehicle was not moving when Maxwell opened fire. The number  
20                  of shots fired by Maxwell was also excessive and unreasonable as it was clear that the first two  
21                  shots struck and incapacitated Decedent, which caused Decedent to lose control of the vehicle and  
22                  allow the car to move forward.

23                  Throughout the encounter, Decedent exhibited indicators of having a mental illness and the  
24                  officers knew or should have known, pursuant to their training, that Decedent potentially was  
25                  suffering from a mental illness or mental health crisis and should have used de-escalation  
26                  techniques and defused the situation as they are trained regarding encounters with mentally-ill  
27                  persons. The officers failed to do so and instead, escalated the encounter and failed to use any de-  
28                  escalation techniques, including moving to a position of cover and out of the potential pathway of

1 the vehicle, communicating with Decedent and giving Decedent commands and a chance to  
 2 comply with those commands before resorting to force.

3 Decedent's adult children, Veronica McLeod and Amado Hernandez, and Decedent's  
 4 mother, Ysidra Regaldo, filed this instant action, alleging the following claims: (1) Violation of  
 5 the Fourth Amendment—Detention and Arrest (42 U.S.C. § 1983); (2) Violation of the Fourth  
 6 Amendment—Excessive Force (42 U.S.C. § 1983); (3) Violation of the Fourth Amendment—  
 7 Denial of Medical Care (42 U.S.C. § 1983); (4) Violation of Substantive Due Process (42 U.S.C. §  
 8 1983); (5) Municipal Liability—Ratification (42 U.S.C. § 1983); (6) Municipal Liability—  
 9 Inadequate Training (42 U.S.C. § 1983); (7) Municipal Liability—Unconstitutional Custom,  
 10 Practice, and Policy (42 U.S.C. § 1983); (8) Battery (Wrongful Death); (9) Negligence (Wrongful  
 11 Death); and (10) Violation of California Civil Code § 52 (Bane Act). *See* First Amended  
 12 Complaint for Damages, Dkt. No. 13. Defendants City of Redding, Garret Maxwell, and Matthew  
 13 Bruce have now filed a Motion for Summary Judgment, or in the Alternative Summary  
 14 Adjudication on all claims. Because under Plaintiffs' facts, Maxwell and Bruce unreasonably  
 15 detained Decedent—who had committed no crime, used excessive and unreasonable force against  
 16 Decedent when she did not pose an immediate threat to anyone and certainly not an immediate  
 17 threat of death or serious bodily injury, and were negligent in the pre-force conduct and use of  
 18 force, summary judgment should be denied as to Plaintiff's Fourth Amendment claims for  
 19 Detention and Arrest and Excessive Force, Fourteenth Amendment substantive due process claim,  
 20 and state law claims for battery, negligence and violation of the Bane Act.<sup>1</sup>

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27 <sup>1</sup> Plaintiffs voluntarily dismiss Plaintiffs' Fourth Amendment Denial of Medical Care claim and  
 28 Municipal Liability claims (Ratification, Inadequate Training, and Unconstitutional Custom,  
 Practice or Policy).

1 **II. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

2 A. Bruce and Maxwell Respond to a Call Regarding a Disturbance and Bruce Makes  
3 Contact with Decedent

4 Bruce and Maxwell responded to a general disturbance call regarding a woman using foul  
5 language, causing a disturbance at a location, and refusing to leave the area. Plaintiffs' Additional  
6 Material Facts ("PAMF") 40. When Bruce responded to the call, he did not have any information  
7 that anyone had been verbally threatened, that anyone had been injured, or that any weapon had  
8 been involved. PAMF 41. Bruce did not speak with anyone at the scene before speaking with  
9 Decedent. PAMF 42. Bruce was aware that Maxwell had arrived shortly behind him and waited  
10 for Maxwell to make their approach but did not have a conversation with Maxwell prior to making  
11 the approach. PAMF 43-44.

12 When Bruce initially contacted Decedent in her vehicle, the driver's window was all the  
13 way up. PAMF 45. Maxwell then arrived on scene and made contact with a security guard who  
14 informed him that the Decedent had caused a disturbance inside the Mod Pizza business and  
15 claims she had been belligerent. PAMF 46. In order to get Decedent's attention, Bruce knocked on  
16 Decedent's window three times then shined his flashlight into her car, to which Decedent lowered  
17 her window a few inches. PAMF 47. Bruce did not recognize Decedent and had never had contact  
18 with Decedent prior to the incident. PAMF 48. Bruce also did not see any weapons in the car.  
19 PAMF 49.

20 While speaking with Decedent, Bruce knew something was not right with Decedent and  
21 that she was not in her right mind. PAMF 50. As Bruce continued to speak with Decedent, he  
22 could tell that he was agitating her. PAMF 51. Bruce was unable to assess whether Decedent was  
23 under the influence of drugs or alcohol. PAMF 55. However, as he continued to interact with her,  
24 Bruce started to build a suspicion that Decedent possibly had a mental health problem. PAMF 52.  
25 After Decedent accused Bruce of being a murderer, he claims he started to become more aware  
26 that Decedent was not safe. PAMF 53. While speaking with the security guard, Maxwell claims he  
27 noticed that Decedent was angry and cursing at Bruce. PAMF 56. Thus, Maxwell moved off the  
28 sidewalk and positioned himself near Bruce as Bruce continued to speak with Decedent. PAMF

1 57. Decedent never made any verbal threat to Bruce during her conversation with him. PAMF 54.  
2 In response to Bruce's request to see Decedent's license, Decedent refused and began to reverse  
3 the car. PAMF 58.

4 B. Decedent Attempts to Leave the Shopping Plaza

5 When Decedent started backing up the vehicle, Bruce waved to her and told her that she  
6 was now driving. PAMF 59. Bruce believed that Decedent was free to leave because he did not  
7 have enough to detain or arrest her and was going to go look for Maxwell to speak with him about  
8 what had occurred. PAMF 60. At this time, Bruce had no intention of arresting Decedent and was  
9 going to let her go. PAMF 61. This was because Bruce did not have enough to determine if she  
10 was something more than just crazy, and being crazy is not a crime. PAMF 62. As the vehicle  
11 began to back out, Maxwell moved into the parking lot area to get a better vantage point of the  
12 parking area. PAMF 63. Maxwell intended to let Decedent leave the shopping plaza and then  
13 initiate a traffic stop on Decedent at a later location PAMF 64. Neither officer had discussed their  
14 intentions with regards to Decedent, as Bruce admitted that he did not even know where Maxwell  
15 was at the time Decedent put her vehicle in reverse and intended to go look for Maxwell to  
16 discuss. PAMF 65.

17 At some point while backing out, the vehicle came to a stop and then moved forward as the  
18 officers walked alongside the driver's side of the vehicle, before coming to another stop. PAMF  
19 66. The vehicle did not come close to striking any officer and neither officer was in the pathway of  
20 the vehicle when it moved forward. PAMF 67. Neither Bruce nor Maxwell was struck by the  
21 vehicle. PAMF 68. After Decedent moved the vehicle forward and then came to a stop, Bruce  
22 claims that he thought that Decedent was agitated at this point. PAMF 69. Bruce cannot recall  
23 whether Decedent's car windows were all the way up and concedes that the window may have  
24 been down a few inches still. PAMF 70. After the car reversed and then moved forward, Maxwell  
25 claims he heard Bruce say things to the driver before Bruce began to hit the window with his  
26 baton. PAMF 71. After coming to a stop, the vehicle began to reverse again. PAMF 72.

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1 C. The Officers Escalate the Encounter in an Attempt to Take Decedent into Custody

2 As the vehicle reversed, Bruce approached the driver's side door and started to strike the  
3 driver's side window with the bottom of his baton, while positioning his left foot extended  
4 forward near the front left tire. PAMF 73. A reasonable officer acting pursuant to standard police  
5 practices and training would not have believed that there was reasonable suspicion to detain or  
6 probable cause to arrest at this point in time. PAMF 74. Bruce's plan was to bash open the driver's  
7 side window and pull Decedent out of the vehicle. PAMF 75. Bruce did not make tactical plan or  
8 have any discussion with Maxwell prior to bashing the vehicle's window. PAMF 76. Bruce has  
9 never been able to successfully break window while the driver was in the car and the engine was  
10 on, nor has he ever seen an officer successfully smash a window open and stop someone from  
11 driving while the vehicle is on, in gear, and the driver is in the vehicle. PAMF 77-78.

12 Prior to striking the window with his baton, Bruce did not give Decedent any commands or  
13 a warning that he was going to strike her window. PAMF 79. Bruce also did not make any  
14 gestures with his hands in an attempt to communicate with Decedent that he wanted her to stop.  
15 PAMF 80. Bruce made the decision to not give any commands or gestures prior to approaching to  
16 smash the window. PAMF 81. He claims that the reasons he did not try to give Decedent a  
17 command or gesture to let her know he wanted her to stop prior to approaching to stop her  
18 window was because he was purely focused on the task at hand. PAMF 82.

19 Bruce claims that he anticipated that the car was going to move while he was smashing the  
20 window and planned that if the car were to move forward or backward, he would move along with  
21 the vehicle and make its angle while continuing to smash the window. PAMF 84-85. However,  
22 Bruce admitted that he was not aware of whether the vehicle was moving or not while he was  
23 focused on breaking the driver's side window. PAMF 83. Bruce also admitted that he did not  
24 know where Maxwell was while he was smashing the window with his baton and was not aware  
25 of what Maxwell was doing. PAMF 86.

26 While Bruce was striking the driver's side window, Maxwell approached the moving  
27 vehicle's left rear tire and stabbed the tire with his knife. PAMF 87. Maxwell observed Bruce  
28 using his expandable baton to try and break the window before Maxwell got to the rear tire.

1 PAMF 88. Bruce struck the vehicle's window three times with his baton. PAMF 89. After Bruce's  
2 third baton strike, the car reversed further, and Bruce fell to the ground near the front left tire.  
3 PAMF 90. Bruce found himself on the ground and initially did not know what had brought him off  
4 his feet. PAMF 91. After falling to the ground, Bruce was positioned on all fours, with his arms  
5 and legs apart. PAMF 93. The vehicle's left front tire did not stop on Bruce and Bruce was not  
6 pinned underneath the vehicle. PAMF 94. After Bruce went to the ground, he did not try to say  
7 anything to Decedent. PAMF 95. Bruce concedes that if he had not gone up to smash the vehicle's  
8 window, he would not have been in the position to end up where he did on the ground. PAMF 92.

9 D. Maxwell Shoots and Kills Decedent

10 Moments after Bruce went to the ground, Bruce looked at Maxwell and told Maxwell to  
11 shoot Decedent with his firearm, believing that he was directing Maxwell to shoot Decedent.  
12 PAMF 96-97. After stabbing the left rear tire twice, Maxwell turned his attention to Bruce,  
13 unholstered his firearm and pointed it at the driver's side window. PAMF 98. There was a gap of  
14 time from when Maxwell drew his firearm to when he engaged his firearm during which Maxwell  
15 assessed the situation. PAMF 99. According to Maxwell, approximately three to five seconds  
16 passed between the time Maxwell got to the car window and when he began shooting. PAMF 100.  
17 Maxwell discharged his firearm into the driver's side window. PAMF 101. The vehicle was not  
18 moving when the shooting started. PAMF 102. Maxwell never said anything to Decedent,  
19 including any commands to stop or a warning that he was going to shoot, prior to the shooting.  
20 PAMF 103.

21 Maxwell aimed at Decedent's upper left torso. PAMF 104. Maxwell was able to see  
22 Decedent in the car through the circle that was created after the first shot. PAMF 105. Maxwell  
23 had the impression that his shots were striking Decedent in the car because he could see the initial  
24 impact as he began shooting and could see that his continued shots appeared to be striking her.  
25 PAMF 106. After the first or second shot, Decedent's head fell forward and landed on the steering  
26 wheel. PAMF 107. After the first two shots, Decedent's head and upper body moved away from  
27 the driver's side and down towards passenger seat area. PAMF 108. The car also slowly moved  
28 forward in a straight line and Bruce moved away from near the front left tire. PAMF 109. Bruce

1 was not in the direct pathway of the vehicle when it started to move forward. PAMF 110. The car  
2 never attempted to make a turn when it moved forward; it generally moved in a straight direction  
3 the entire time. PAMF 111. When the car rolled forward, it was moving at approximately 2 miles  
4 per hour. PAMF 112. Bruce claims he heard two back-to-back shots and then felt the vehicle  
5 move off his leg. PAMF 113. Maxwell fired five additional shots after the initial two shots for a  
6 total of seven shots. PAMF 114. Maxwell claims he would not have had to shoot if Decedent had  
7 stopped and complied with directions after driving forward in the officers' direction, PAMF 115,  
8 but as previously discussed, both Maxwell and Bruce admitted that they never gave any  
9 commands to Decedent, PAMF 79-81, 95, 103. Maxwell claims he would not have used his  
10 firearm against Decedent had Decedent not been manipulating her car or looked like she was  
11 going to comply after striking Bruce, PAMF 116, but a reasonable jury could find under the  
12 evidence that Decedent was not manipulating the car because the car was stopped during the first  
13 two shots and Decedent lost control of the vehicle when she was struck by the first two shots, *see*  
14 PAMF 106-08.

15 Decedent sustained seven gunshot wounds to her body. PAMF 117. One of the gunshot  
16 wounds entered her left mid-back and had a back to front, left to right, and sharply upward  
17 trajectory. PAMF 118. Another gunshot wound entered the lateral left torso and had a left to right,  
18 slightly front to back, and sharply upward trajectory. PAMF 119. The bullets broke Decedent's  
19 jaw and left upper arm, damaged structures in her neck, and tore through her left lung with  
20 resultant accumulation of blood in her left chest cavity. PAMF 120. Decedent died as a result of  
21 her gunshot wounds. PAMF 121.

22 Bruce did not sustain any broken bones or any injury that required surgical intervention as  
23 a result of the incident. PAMF 122. Bruce only sustained abrasions and contusions to his left knee,  
24 right knee, and abrasions to his hands PAMF 123.

25 E. The Officers' Pre-Force Conduct and Uses of Force Violated Standard Police Practices  
26 and Training

27 Plaintiffs' police practices expert, Scott DeFoe, opined that based on the circumstances of  
28 this incident, a reasonable police officer acting consistent with standard police practices and



1 training would have initially determined that Decedent was mentally ill or experiencing a mental  
2 health crisis. PAMF 124. The officers failed to do so despite Decedent exhibiting indicators of a  
3 mental illness. PAMF 126. Officers are trained to recognize cues and other indicators of a mental  
4 illness in order to make appropriate decisions regarding intervention strategies. PAMF 125. A  
5 reasonable officer acting consistent with standard police practices would have acted according to  
6 their training regarding how to deal with mentally ill persons or persons experiencing a mental  
7 crisis and would have attempted to deescalate and utilize proper defusing techniques. PAMF 131.

8 Mr. DeFoe further opined that there was a gross lack of situational awareness and  
9 fundamental tactical errors made by Maxwell and Bruce in this incident. PAMF 127. The officers  
10 failed to formulate a tactical plan prior to their initial approach Decedent and prior to approaching  
11 Decedent to detain her. PAMF 128. The poor tactical choices and errors made by the officers  
12 during this incident include failing to recognize that Decedent may have a mental illness and  
13 responding appropriately pursuant to their training, failing to tactically position themselves in a  
14 position of cover and away from Decedent's vehicle when it began moving, failing to  
15 communicate with each other during the incident, positioning themselves near or in the pathway of  
16 a moving vehicle despite anticipating that the vehicle would continue to move, unnecessarily  
17 escalating the situation by using force without attempting to communicate, give commands, or  
18 give warnings, and not being aware of where their partner was during the incident. PAMF 129.  
19 Mr. DeFoe opined that had the officers not made such poor tactical decisions and errors, the  
20 shooting would not have happened. PAMF 130.

21 Additionally, Bruce's use of the baton to strike the driver's side window violated standard  
22 police practices and training and unnecessarily escalated the situation. PAMF 132. Moreover, a  
23 reasonable officer acting consistent with police practices and training, confronted with the facts of  
24 this incident, would not have used lethal force in this situation. PAMF 132. This was not an  
25 immediate defense of life situation and under the facts of this case, Maxwell could not shoot  
26 Decedent after Bruce was not under the vehicle or in a position where he or Maxwell could be  
27 immediately struck by the vehicle. PAMF 134. Officers are trained that shooting at a moving  
28 vehicle is rarely effective and that officers should move out of the path of an approaching vehicle



1 instead of discharging their firearm because if a driver is wounded or killed while operating a  
2 vehicle, the driver could lose control of the vehicle, making it more dangerous for those around the  
3 vehicle. PAMF 135-36. Further, the Redding Police Department Policy 300.4.1 advises officers  
4 that they should only discharge a firearm at a moving vehicle if the officer reasonably believes  
5 there are no other means available to avert the imminent threat or if deadly force other than the  
6 vehicle is directed at others. PAMF 148. Here, Maxwell never saw Decedent with a gun or  
7 pointing a gun at anyone. PAMF 149.

8 Officers are trained that lethal force must be a last resort and used only in the direst of  
9 circumstances. PAMF 138. Officers are further trained that they must show a reverence for human  
10 life and to consider other reasonable measures available prior to using lethal force. PAMF 139.  
11 Maxwell had other reasonable measures available to him at the time he used lethal force, including  
12 but not limited to issuing commands and warnings and moving to a position of cover. PAMF 140.  
13 Officers are also trained that they are responsible for justifying every shot, that subjective fear is  
14 insufficient to justify deadly force, and that an overreaction in using force is excessive force.  
15 PAMF 141-42. Mr. DeFoe opined that the number of shots by Maxwell violated standard police  
16 practices and training as it was clear to Maxwell that his initial shots struck Decedent, Decedent  
17 was incapacitated by the initial shots, and Bruce was able to move away from the vehicle after the  
18 initial two shots. PAMF 143.

19 Lastly, officers are trained to give a warning, when feasible, prior to using force in order to  
20 give the suspect the opportunity to comply and avoid the use of force. PAMF 144. Here, it was  
21 feasible for Bruce and Maxwell to provide commands and a warning prior to their deployment of  
22 forces but they failed to do so. PAMF 145-46. Mr. DeFoe opined that a reasonable officer acting  
23 pursuant to standard police practices and training would have given a warning prior to striking the  
24 driver's side window with a baton and prior using deadly force under the circumstances of this  
25 incident. PAMF 147.

### 26 **III. LEGAL STANDARD**

27 In ruling on a motion for summary judgment, the Court must view the evidence and draw all  
28 reasonable inferences therefrom in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party. *Adickes v. S.H.*

1 *Kress & Co.*, 398 U.S. 144, 158-59 (1970); *Lake Nacimiento Ranch Co. v. San Luis Obispo Cnty.*,  
 2 841 F.2d 872, 875 (9th Cir. 1987). Even where the basic facts are undisputed, summary judgment  
 3 should be denied if reasonable minds could differ on the inferences to be drawn from those facts.  
 4 *Adickes*, 398 U.S. at 158-59; *Lake Nacimiento Ranch Co.*, 841 F.2d at 875. “Credibility  
 5 determinations, the weighing of the evidence, and the drawing of legitimate inferences from the  
 6 facts are jury functions, not those of a judge . . .” *Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242,  
 7 255 (1986).

8 “Because [the excessive force inquiry] nearly always requires a jury to sift through  
 9 disputed factual contentions, and to draw inferences therefrom, [the Ninth Circuit] held on many  
 10 occasions that summary judgment or judgment as a matter of law in excessive force cases should  
 11 be granted sparingly.” *Santos v. Gates*, 287 F.3d 846, 853 (9th Cir. 2002); *accord Liston v. Cnty.*  
 12 *of Riverside*, 120 F.3d 965, 976 n.10 (9th Cir. 1997) (as amended) (“We have held repeatedly that  
 13 the reasonableness of force used is ordinarily a question of fact for the jury.”). “This is because  
 14 such cases almost always turn on a jury’s credibility determinations.” *Smith v. City of Hemet*, 394  
 15 F.3d 689, 701 (9th Cir. 2005). Thus, “[t]he [court] must carefully examine all the evidence in the  
 16 record . . . and the available physical evidence, as well as any expert testimony proffered by the  
 17 plaintiff, to determine whether the officer’s story is internally consistent and consistent with the  
 18 known facts.” *Scott v. Henrich*, 39 F.3d 912, 915 (9th Cir. 1994) (“*Scott 1994*”); *accord Gonzalez*  
 19 *v. City of Anaheim*, 747 F.3d 789, 794-95 (9th Cir. 2014) (en banc). This includes “circumstantial  
 20 evidence that, if believed, would tend to discredit the police officer’s story.” *Scott 1994*, 39 F.3d at  
 21 915. While courts “do not judge the reasonableness of an officer’s actions ‘with the 20/20 vision  
 22 of hindsight,’ nor does the Constitution forgive an officer’s every mistake.” *Scott 1994*, 39 F.3d at  
 23 915.

24 Where there is video evidence of the incident, the court must “view[] the facts in the light  
 25 depicted by the videotape.” *Scott v. Harris*, 550 U.S. 372, 380-81 (2007) (“*Scott 2007*”); *Vos v.*  
 26 *City of Newport Beach*, 992 F.3d 1024, 1028 (9th Cir. 2019) (“The record is view in the light most  
 27 favorable to the nonmovants. . . , so long as their version of the facts is not blatantly contradicted  
 28 by the video evidence.” (citations omitted)). However, even where video evidence exists, “courts

1 have declined to apply the limited exception set for in *Scott v. Harris* where a videotape... does  
 2 not capture the who incident... or whether the video... is susceptible to multiple reasonable  
 3 interpretations. *Patterson v. City of Wildwood*, 354 Fed. App'x 695, 698 (3d Cir. 2009); *see Vos*,  
 4 892 F.3d at 1028 ("The mere existence of video footage of the incident does not foreclose a  
 5 genuine factual dispute as to the reasonable inferences that can be drawn from that footage");  
 6 *Branscum v. San Ramon Police Dep't*, 505 Fed. App'x 860, 862 (9th Cir. 2005) (determining that  
 7 *Scott v. Harris* did not apply where footage was susceptible to more than one interpretation);  
 8 *Shreve v. Franklin Cnty., Ohio*, 743 F.3d 126, 143 (6th Cir. 2014) (accepting the nonmovant's  
 9 interpretation of a video because a reasonable jury could view the video and believe the  
 10 nonmovant's version of the facts).

#### 11 **IV. ARGUMENT**

##### 12 **A. Maxwell and Bruce Unreasonably Seized Decedent When Bruce Struck Decedent's** 13 **Window and Maxwell Deflated Decedent's Tire with His Knife**

14 Stops under the Fourth Amendment fall into three categories: First, police may  
 15 stop a citizen for questioning at any time, so long as that citizen recognizes that  
 16 he or she is free to leave. Such brief, "consensual" exchanges need not be  
 17 supported by any suspicion that the citizen is engaged in wrongdoing, and such  
 18 stops are not considered seizures."). "...Second, the police may "seize"  
 19 citizens for brief, investigatory stops. This class of stops is not consensual, and  
 20 such stops must be supported by "reasonable suspicion." Finally, police stops  
 21 may be full-scale arrests. These stops, of course, are seizures, and must be  
 22 supported by probable cause.

19 *Morgan v. Woessner*, 997 F.2d 1244, 1252 (9th Cir. 1993) (citations omitted)). "An officer has  
 20 probable cause to make a warrantless arrest when the facts and circumstances within his  
 21 knowledge are sufficient for a reasonably prudent person to believe that the suspect has committed  
 22 a crime." *Rosenbaum v. Washoe Cnty.*, 663 F.3d 1071, 1076 (9th Cir. 2011) (citation omitted). In  
 23 determine whether there was probable cause to arrest, courts look to "the totality of the  
 24 circumstances known to the arresting officers [to determine if] a prudent person would have  
 25 concluded there was a fair probability that [the suspect] had committed a crime." *U.S. v. Smith*,  
 26 790 F.2d 789, 792 (9th Cir. 1986).

1 The officers had neither reasonable suspicion to detain nor probable cause to arrest  
2 Decedent at the time Bruce approached the vehicle and began striking the driver's side window  
3 with his baton while Maxwell approached the left rear tire and stabbed it with his knife. The  
4 officers' encounter with Decedent started as a consensual encounter. The officers responded to a  
5 general disturbance call but admitted that when Decedent started backing out of the parking space,  
6 they had neither reasonable suspicion to detain nor probable cause to arrest Decedent. Bruce  
7 testified that when the vehicle started to reverse, Decedent was free to leave and that he intended  
8 to leave Decedent leave because he did not have enough to detain or arrest Decedent. Despite this  
9 admission, seconds later Bruce claims he attempted to arrest Decedent by striking her driver's side  
10 window several times with his baton with the intention to smash open the window and pull  
11 Decedent out of the vehicle. Mr. DeFoe opined that a reasonable officer acting pursuant to  
12 standard police practices and training would not have believed that there was reasonable suspicion  
13 to detain or probable cause to arrest Decedent at that time. Viewing the bystander video of the  
14 incident, Decedent does not appear to intentionally try to strike any of the officers with her vehicle  
15 in between the time she started to reverse her vehicle and when Bruce approached the vehicle and  
16 began striking the driver's side door with his baton. Moreover, neither officer had been struck by  
17 the vehicle at this point in time. And, as will be discussed later, Bruce's baton strikes was  
18 inappropriate and a poor tactical choice that unnecessarily escalated the situation. Accordingly, the  
19 officers unreasonably seized Decedent without reasonable suspicion or probable cause when  
20 Bruce approached and struck the driver's side window with his baton and when Maxwell stabbed  
21 and deflated the left rear tire with his knife.

22 B. Maxwell and Bruce Used Excessive and Unreasonable Force, Including Deadly Force

23 A constitutional claim for excessive force is evaluated through the Fourth Amendment's  
24 reasonableness standard, considering "whether the officers' actions [we]re 'objectionably  
25 reasonable' in light of the facts and circumstances confronting them." *Graham v. Connor*, 490  
26 U.S. 386, 397 (1989). The "nature and quality of the intrusion" is weighed against the  
27 "countervailing governmental interests at stake." *Id.* at 396. Government interest factors to balance  
28 against the type of force used include "(1) the severity of the crime at issue, (2) whether the

1 suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others, and (3) whether he is  
 2 actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.” *Id.* While it is true that “not every  
 3 push or shove, even if it may seem unnecessary in the peace of a judge’s chambers is a violation of  
 4 the Fourth Amendment, it is equally true that even where some force is justified, the amount  
 5 actually used may be excessive.” *Santos*, 287 F.3d at 853 (internal quotation marks and citations  
 6 omitted).

7 *1. Decedent Had Not Committed a Crime*

8 The officers were not responding to a serious crime when they initially responded to the  
 9 scene and Decedent had not committed a crime when the officers moved to arrest her. *Cf. Salvato*  
 10 *v. Miley*, 790 F.3d 1286, 1293 (11th Cir. 2015) (analyzing only the initial crime that the decedent  
 11 was initially seized for—“yelling and cussing at passing cars”—and not any alleged crime that  
 12 occurred after the initial seizure, even though the decedent struck the officers multiple times). The  
 13 call for service was for a general disturbance and a desire to have the subject leave the area.  
 14 Officer Bruce admitted that in between the time he made initial contact with Decedent and when  
 15 Decedent started to back her car up, he did not have enough to detain or arrest Decedent for a  
 16 crime. Additionally, the officers did not have reasonable suspicion to detain or probable cause to  
 17 arrest Decedent in between the time Decedent initially backed up and when Officer Bruce  
 18 approached the vehicle and began striking the driver’s side window with his baton. While  
 19 Defendants contend that Officer Bruce believed that Decedent had tried to assault him with her  
 20 car, this fact is disputed and viewing the video evidence in the light most favorable to Plaintiffs,  
 21 Decedent was not attempting to assault the officers with her car when the car moved forward.  
 22 Accordingly, under Plaintiffs’ facts, Decedent had not committed a crime.

23 *2. Decedent was Not Actively Resisting Arrest or Attempting to Evade Arrest by*  
 24 *Flight*

25 “‘Resistance’ [] should not be understood as a binary state, with resistance being either  
 26 completely passive or active. Rather, it runs the gamut from purely passive protestor who simply  
 27 refuses to stand, to the individual who is physically assaulting the officer.” *Bryan v. MacPherson*,  
 28 630 F.3d 805, 830 (9th Cir. 2010). “[T]he level of force an individual’s resistance will support is

1 dependent on the factual circumstances underlying that resistance.” *Id.* Where an officer failed to  
 2 inform the suspect that she was under arrest or give orders until after the force deployment, “there  
 3 can [] be no failure to comply with orders, and [the suspect’s] actions cannot be viewed as even  
 4 passive non-compliance. *Nelson v. City of Davis*, 685 F.3d at 881-82 (assuming plaintiff’s facts  
 5 that the officers did not give orders until after the force deployment, plaintiff was not passively  
 6 resisting; even assuming the officers’ facts in which they issued orders, failure to fully or  
 7 immediately comply with an officer’s command is not active resistance).

8         Here, it is undisputed that neither Officer Bruce nor Officer Maxwell ever informed  
 9 Decedent that she was under arrest and attempted to communicate with Decedent and give  
 10 commands or a warning prior striking Decedent’s driver’s side window with the baton and prior to  
 11 the use of deadly force. While Defendants contend that it was not feasible to give commands or a  
 12 warning, under Plaintiffs’ facts, the officers had the opportunity and the time to give commands  
 13 and a warning since Bruce testified that he *made the decision* to not try to communicate with  
 14 Decedent with gestures, commands or a warning prior to using his baton to strike her window  
 15 because he was “purely focused on the task at hand,” and Maxwell testified that there was a gap in  
 16 time from when he drew his firearm to when he engaged his firearm during which he assessed the  
 17 situation but admitted that he did not say anything to Decedent, including any commands to stop  
 18 or a warning that he was going to shoot. Additionally, while Decedent’s vehicle does move a short  
 19 distance between the time Bruce started striking the driver’s side window and when Maxwell  
 20 discharged his firearm, a reasonable jury could conclude that the vehicle only moved in a startle  
 21 response to the officers’ quick escalation of the situation with the baton strikes, knife stabs, and  
 22 use of deadly force. Accordingly, viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to Plaintiffs,  
 23 Decedent was not actively resisting or attempting to evade arrest by flight at the time of the baton  
 24 strikes and the shooting.

### 25             3. *Bruce’s Baton Strikes were Excessive and Unreasonable*

26         Baton strikes are also a “significant use of force that is capable of causing pain and bodily  
 27 injury, and therefore, baton blows, like pepper spray, are considered a form of ‘intermediate  
 28 force.’” *Young v. Cnty. of Los Angeles*, 655 F.3d 1156, 1162 (9th Cir. 2011). The Ninth Circuit has

1 acknowledged evidence that batons should only be used as a response to aggressive or combative  
2 acts. *Id.* The Ninth Circuit in *Young* recognize that striking a subject multiple times with a baton  
3 “is a sufficiently serious intrusion upon liberty that must be justified by a commensurately serious  
4 state interest.” *Id.* “A desire to resolve quickly a potentially dangerous is not the type of  
5 governmental interest that, standing alone, justifies the use of force that may cause serious injury.”  
6 *Deorle v. Rutherford*, 272 F.3d 1272, 1281 (9th Cir. 2001).

7 As previously discussed, Bruce did not have reasonable suspicion to detain nor probable  
8 cause to arrest Decedent at the time he approached the vehicle and struck the driver’s side window  
9 several times with his baton. A reasonable jury could conclude that it was not reasonable for Bruce  
10 to believe that Decedent was trying to assault him with her car when the car moved forward.  
11 Moreover, it is undisputed that Bruce did not try to give commands or a warning prior to using his  
12 baton to strike the window. At the time Bruce approached the car to strike the window with his  
13 baton, he was not in the pathway of the vehicle, and no one was in danger of being struck by the  
14 vehicle as the vehicle slowly began to move in reverse. Under these facts, Bruce was not  
15 responding to any aggressive or combative act by Decedent when he used his baton and a  
16 reasonable jury could find that Bruce’s use of the baton was based on his desire to quickly resolve  
17 a *potentially* dangerous situation and failure to attempt to deescalate the situation with  
18 communication and commands despite it being feasible to do so. Thus, a reasonable jury could  
19 find that Bruce’s use of the baton was excessive and unreasonable under the circumstances.

20 Indeed a reasonable jury could find that if not for Bruce’s unjustifiable and unnecessary  
21 attempts to break Decedent’s window with the baton, for which Decedent had some expected  
22 reaction, the subsequent shooting would not have occurred. Bruce did not even try to attempt to  
23 deescalate to situation by issuing commands or at the very least, communicating with Decedent  
24 that he intended to detain her. While Defendants contend that Bruce could not have effectively  
25 done so due to the music playing in Decedent’s car, this is disputed by the fact that Bruce could  
26 have used gestures, like he did when he waved at Decedent and told her she was driving, and  
27 evidence showing that Bruce did believe he could communicate with Decedent since Maxwell  
28 claims he heard Bruce speaking to Decedent prior to his approach to the vehicle to strike the



1 window with his baton. Bruce even admitted that had he not gone up to smash the vehicle's  
 2 window, he would not have been in the position to end up where he did on the ground. Under  
 3 these facts, a reasonable jury could not only find that Bruce's baton strikes were excessive and  
 4 unreasonable under the Fourth Amendment (and Plaintiffs' battery and negligence claims), but  
 5 that his quick escalation to significant force without provocation shocked the conscience and  
 6 violated Decedent's and Plaintiffs' substantive due process under the Fourteenth Amendment.

7 *4. The Shooting of Decedent was Excessive and Unreasonable*

8 "The use of deadly force implicates the highest level of Fourth Amendment interests both  
 9 because the suspect has a fundamental interest in [her] own life and because such force frustrates  
 10 the interest of the individual, and of society, in judicial determination of guilt and punishment."  
 11 *A.K.H. v. City of Tustin*, 837 F.3d 1005, 1011 (9th Cir. 2016). "The intrusiveness of a seizure by  
 12 means of deadly force is unmatched." *Tennessee v. Garner*, 471 U.S. 1, 9 (1985). Maxwell  
 13 deprived Decedent of the "fundamental interest in her own life." *Id.* "[T]o justify deadly force, an  
 14 objective belief that an imminent threat of death or serious physical harm is required." *Price v.*  
 15 *Sery*, 513 F.3d 952, 969 (9th Cir. 2008).

16 "A moving vehicle can of course pose a threat of serious physical harm, but only if  
 17 someone is at risk of being struck by it." *Orn v. City of Tacoma*, 949 F.3d 1167, 1174 (9th Cir.  
 18 2020). The Ninth Circuit has "consistently found use of deadly force to stop a slow-moving  
 19 vehicle unreasonable when the officers could have easily stepped out of the vehicle's path to avoid  
 20 danger." *Villanueva v. California*, 986 F.3d 1158, 1170 (9th Cir. 2021) (citing *Orn*, 949 F.3d at  
 21 1175). "In contrast, [the Ninth Circuit has] found use of deadly force against a stopped or slow-  
 22 moving vehicle reasonable only when the driver was trying to evade arrest in an aggressive  
 23 manner involving attempted or actual acceleration of the vehicle." *Villanueva*, 986 F.3d at 1170  
 24 (citations omitted).

25 Here, Decedent did not pose an immediate threat of death or serious bodily injury under  
 26 the totality of the circumstances at the time of Maxwell's use of deadly force and it was not  
 27 reasonable for Maxwell to believe otherwise. The officers did not have any information that  
 28 Decedent had ever verbally threatened anybody, had injured anyone, or was armed with a weapon.



1 Importantly, under Plaintiffs’ facts, Decedent had not tried to assault the officers with her vehicle  
 2 and Bruce was not pinned underneath the vehicle nor was he in danger of being run over by the  
 3 vehicle at the time of the shooting. While Defendants contend that the vehicle could have run over  
 4 Bruce’s head and body *if* the vehicle had been driven forward *with* counterclockwise steering,  
 5 there is no evidence that such an event was about to occur and posed such an immediate threat to  
 6 Bruce. “The inquiry is not whether someone could *potentially* be an “immediate threat” but  
 7 whether the person is actually an immediate threat at the time the deadly force was used.” *Funke v.*  
 8 *Hatten*, Case No. 2:19-cv-01335-RFB-EJY, 2021 WL 2346003, at \*6 (D. Nev. June 8, 2021)  
 9 (citing *Aguirre v. City of West Convina*, 187 F. App’x 655, 757 (9th Cir. 2006)). There are no  
 10 objective facts to support Defendants’ contention that the vehicle was about to move forward with  
 11 counterclockwise steering and run over Bruce’s body and head. Additionally, the vehicle was not  
 12 attempting to evade arrest in an aggressive manner at the time of the shooting as the officers never  
 13 informed Decedent that she was under arrest nor give Decedent any commands, the vehicle was  
 14 not moving when the shooting started, and a reasonable jury could find that the vehicle only rolled  
 15 forward at a speed of approximately two miles per hour after the first two shots because Decedent  
 16 had been struck by the shots, was incapacitated, and had lost control of the vehicle.

17 Moreover, even if the Court were to assume that Maxwell reasonably believed Decedent to  
 18 be an immediate threat of death or serious bodily injury when he started firing, the objective facts  
 19 show that the number of shots fired in total was excessive and unreasonable. Officers are trained  
 20 that they must justify every shot, that subjective fear is insufficient to justify the use of deadly  
 21 force, and that an overreaction is excessive force. Here, Maxwell firing seven shots at Decedent  
 22 (all of which struck Decedent) was an overreaction and use of excessive force. In *Tabares v. City*  
 23 *of Huntington Beach*, the Ninth Circuit held that a reasonable jury could find the “number of  
 24 shots” fired by the officer to be unreasonable “even had an initial threat existed,” where the  
 25 suspect had already been shot multiple times and the officer “did not give [the suspect] any time to  
 26 understand or comply with [his] command before firing the [final] shot.” 988 F.3d 1119, 1130 (9th  
 27 Cir. 2021) (citing *Zion v. Cnty. of Orange*, 874 F.3d 1072 (9th Cir. 2017)). Here, Maxwell fired  
 28 his five additional shots despite it being clear that his initial shots had struck Decedent, Decedent

1 was incapacitated after the initial two shots as her head fell forward and struck the steering wheel  
 2 and her head and upper body then fell towards the front passenger seat, and Bruce was able to  
 3 move away from the vehicle after the initial two shots.

4 *5. Bruce Integrally Participated in the Use of Deadly Force Against Decedent*

5 An officer's liability under section 1983 may be predicated on his "integral participation"  
 6 in the alleged violation. *Chuman v. Wright*, 76 F.3d 292, 294-95 (9th Cir. 1996). "[I]ntegral  
 7 participation" does not require that each officer's actions themselves rise to the level of a  
 8 constitutional violation." *Boyd v. Benton Cnty.*, 374 F.3d 773, 780 (9th Cir. 2004). In *Blankenhorn*  
 9 *v. City of Orange*, the Ninth Circuit determined that the officer who ordered another officer to use  
 10 hobble restraints—restraints which a reasonable jury could find to be excessive—may be held  
 11 liable for that alleged use of excessive force. 485 F.3d 463, 480, 481 n.12 (9th Cir. 2007). Here, it  
 12 is undisputed that Bruce told Maxwell to shoot Decedent and in doing so, believed that he was  
 13 directing Maxwell to shoot. A reasonable jury could find that Maxwell shot at Bruce's direction  
 14 and thus, Bruce integrally participated in the use of deadly force against Decedent.

15 *6. Additional Factors Weigh Against the Reasonableness of the Uses of Force,*  
 16 *Including Maxwell's Use of Deadly Force*

17 Additional factors to consider in evaluating the reasonableness of the use of force are  
 18 whether the officer provided adequate commands prior to deploying forceful measures; whether, if  
 19 feasible, a warning that failure to comply would result in deadly force; and the availability of  
 20 alternative methods to effectuate an arrest. *See S.R. Nehad v. Browder*, 929 F.3d 1125, 1137-38  
 21 (9th Cir. 2019). Under Plaintiffs' facts, all three factors weigh against the reasonableness of  
 22 Bruce's baton strikes and Maxwell's use of deadly force. It is undisputed that the officers did not  
 23 attempt to communicate with Decedent, provide any commands prior to deploying the baton and  
 24 shooting Decedent, or provide a warning that they would deploy any force. The officers failed to  
 25 do so despite the fact that it was feasible to do so as Bruce had time to give commands and a  
 26 warning because no one was in danger or being struck or run over by the vehicle at the time he  
 27 deployed his baton and the vehicle was just starting to slowly reverse and Bruce admitted he made  
 28 the decision not to do so because he was so focused on smashing open the window; and Maxwell

1 admitted there was a gap in time between when he unholstered his firearm and when he discharged  
2 the firearm and had the time to assess the situation. Moreover under Plaintiffs’ facts, the officers  
3 had other reasonable alternatives available, including giving commands and moving away from  
4 the vehicle and into a position of cover.

5       Additionally, the Ninth Circuit has emphasized that when police engage with persons  
6 whom they know or should know to be mentally ill, the calculus for reasonable and necessary  
7 force is different. *See, e.g., Glenn v. Washington Cnty.*, 673 F.3d 864, 875 (9th Cir. 2011)  
8 (“circumstance relevant to our analysis is whether the officers were or should have been aware  
9 that [decedent] was emotionally disturbed. Viewing the facts in the required light, it is clear  
10 that...[decedent] was obviously emotionally disturbed, a factor to which the officers should have  
11 assigned greater weight.”) (citations omitted); *Drummond v. City of Anaheim*, 343 F.3d 1052,  
12 1058 (9th Cir. 2003) (“mental illness must be reflected in any assessment of the government’s  
13 interest in the use of force.”); *Bryan*, 630 F.3d at 829 “[E]ven when an emotionally disturbed  
14 individual is acting out and inviting officers to use deadly force to subdue him, the governmental  
15 interest in using such force is diminished by the fact that the officers are confronted ... with a  
16 mentally ill individual.”] [citation marks omitted].) Under Plaintiffs’ facts, the officers knew or  
17 should have known that Decedent was mentally ill and acted pursuant to their training to  
18 deescalate the situation rather than quickly escalate the situation, resulting in the shooting and  
19 killing of Plaintiff.

20       Lastly, the Ninth Circuit has stated that, “[w]here a police officer unreasonably places  
21 himself in harm’s way, his use of deadly force may be deemed excessive.” *Orn*, 949 F.3d at 1176  
22 n.1. “Reasonable triers of fact can, taking the totality of the circumstances into account, conclude  
23 that an officer’s poor judgment or lack of preparedness caused him or her to act unreasonably,  
24 with undue haste.” *S.R. Nehad*, 929 F.3d at 1135. Mr. DeFoe opined the Bruce and Maxwell’s  
25 decision to walk near the moving vehicle as it began to back out was tactically unsound and that a  
26 reasonable officer would have moved away from the vehicle and to a position of cover.  
27 Additionally, Bruce and Maxwell’s decision to approach Decedent’s slow-moving vehicle and  
28 strike her window with the baton while deflating the left rear tire with a knife was unreasonable

1 and created a situation where they placed themselves in potential harm's way. There was no  
 2 urgency in needing to disable Decedent's vehicle at the time they used the baton strikes and knife  
 3 stabs as they had yet to try to communicate with her or give her any commands and the car was  
 4 moving very slowly and not in a position to escape at that moment. As Mr. DeFoe opined, officers  
 5 made poor tactical decisions and fundamental tactical errors in approaching Decedent's vehicle to  
 6 disable it instead of tactically repositioning in a position of cover and away from Decedent's car  
 7 despite anticipating that the car would continue to move. A reasonable officer acting consistent  
 8 with standard police practices would have acted according to their training regarding how to deal  
 9 with mentally ill persons or persons experiencing a mental crisis and would have attempted to  
 10 deescalate and utilize proper defusing techniques. Mr. DeFoe concluded that had the officers not  
 11 made such poor tactical decisions and errors, the shooting would not have happened.

12 Accordingly, these additional factors weigh against the reasonableness of Bruce's baton  
 13 deployment and Maxwell's use of deadly force.

14 *7. The Cases Cited by Defendants in Support of Their Argument are Materially*  
 15 *Distinguishable from the Facts of this Case*

16 Defendants rely on two published Ninth Circuit opinions and two unpublished district  
 17 court opinions in arguing that similar cases have held that an officer's use of deadly force was  
 18 reasonable. Defendants' reliance on these cases are misplaced as the material facts of those cases  
 19 are distinguishable from the facts of this case.

20 In *Monzon v. City of Murrieta*, the Ninth Circuit held that the officers reasonably used  
 21 deadly force when they shot at a vehicle that was accelerating towards them after the driver had  
 22 led the officers on a dangerous high-speed chase and refused commands to stop his vehicle. 978  
 23 F.3d 1150, 1157 (9th Cir. 2020). Under these facts, the Ninth Circuit found that the driver posed  
 24 an immediate threat to the safety of the officers and was actively resisting arrest and attempting to  
 25 resist arrest by flight. *Id.* Here, there was no dangerous high-speed chase the precipitated the use  
 26 of deadly force and under Plaintiffs' facts, Decedent was neither resisting arrest nor attempting to  
 27 evade arrest by flight as neither Bruce nor Maxwell ever attempted to communicate with  
 28 Decedent, give Decedent commands, or give a warning that force would be use before they

1 attempted to disable Decedent's vehicle and shot and killed Decedent. Importantly, neither Bruce  
2 nor Maxwell was in the pathway of the vehicle at the time Maxwell used deadly force and the  
3 vehicle was not accelerating towards anyone.

4 In *Wilkinson v. Torres*, the Ninth Circuit held that the officer's use of deadly force was  
5 reasonable because the driver had failed to yield to police sirens and direct commands to stop the  
6 vehicle, the vehicle was accelerating with its tires spinning and throwing up mud in close quarters  
7 of two officers on foot, and the shooting officer reasonably believed that his partner was in the  
8 pathway of the vehicle. 610 F.3d 546, 551 (9th Cir. 2010). Here, the officers never told Decedent  
9 she was understand nor attempted to give Decedent any commands to stop the vehicle.  
10 Additionally, the vehicle was not accelerating nor attempting to accelerate towards any officer and  
11 neither officer was in the pathway of the vehicle at the time of the shooting.

12 The two unpublished district court decisions are even less persuasive. In *Fewell v.*  
13 *California*, the district court determined that the officer's use of deadly force was reasonable  
14 because the officers had information that the driver had driven recklessly, the driver had failed to  
15 obey repeated commands, and the truck suddenly and rapidly accelerated towards the officer at the  
16 time of the shooting. CV 16-1934 DSF (JEMx), 2017 WL 6043080, at \*4, 5 (C.D. Cal. Apr. 11,  
17 2017). In *Holland v. Azevedo*, the district court determined that the officer's use of his baton to  
18 break the vehicle's window to remove the plaintiff from the vehicle was reasonable because the  
19 officers had probable cause to arrest the plaintiff for traffic violations and driving with expired  
20 registration and license and it was undisputed that the plaintiff was actively resisting arrest by  
21 ignoring repeated commands to exit her vehicle and attempted to wedge herself into the vehicle to  
22 thwart the officers' attempt of removal. Case No. 14-cv-01349-JST, 2016 WL 1754446, at \*8-10  
23 (N.D. Cal. May 3, 2016). Under Plaintiffs facts in this case, the officers did not have probable  
24 cause to arrest Decedent when Bruce approached and began to strike the driver's side window  
25 with his baton. Additionally, neither officer ever gave Decedent any commands or a warning that  
26 they were prepared to use force prior to the deployment of the Taser and the shooting and thus did  
27 not afford Decedent with the opportunity to comply and avoid the deployments of force. Lastly,  
28 Decedent's vehicle was not accelerating rapidly towards anyone at the time of the shooting.

1 C. Maxwell and Bruce are Not Entitled to Qualified Immunity Under Plaintiffs' Fourth  
 2 Amendment Excessive Force Claim

3 An officer is not entitled to qualified immunity where “(1) facts viewed in the light most  
 4 favorable to the injured party show that the officer violated a constitutional right and (2) the right  
 5 was clearly established at the time of the alleged misconduct.” *Ford v. City of Yakima*, 706 F.3d  
 6 1188, 1192 (9th Cir. 2013) (citing *Saucier v. Katz*, 533 U.S. 194, 201 (2001)). A right is clearly  
 7 established where its “contours . . . [are] sufficiently clear [such] that a reasonable official would  
 8 understand that what he is doing violates that right.” *Anderson v. Creighton*, 483 U.S. 635, 640  
 9 (1987). This requires “cases relevant to the situation [the officer] confronted,” *Brosseau v.*  
 10 *Haugen*, 543 U.S. 194, 200 (2004), however it does “not require a case directly on point,”  
 11 *Ashcroft v. al-Kidd*, 563 U.S. 731, 741 (2011). In considering existing precedent, the Court “may  
 12 look at unpublished decisions and the law of other circuits, in addition to Ninth Circuit precedent.”  
 13 *Prison Legal News v. Lehman*, 397 F.3d 692, 702 (9th Cir. 2005).

14 Further, the Supreme Court “has firmly rejected the notion that ‘an official  
 15 action is protected by qualified immunity unless the very action in question has previously been  
 16 held unlawful.’” *Estate of Lopez v. Gelhaus*, 871 F.3d 998, 1018 (9th Cir. 2017); *Brosseau*, 543  
 17 U.S. at 206 (Stevens, J., dissenting) (“The Court’s search for relevant case law applying the  
 18 Garner standard to materially similar facts is both unnecessary and ill advised.”) (quoting  
 19 *Anderson*, 483 U.S. at 640). In fact, even “[c]losely analogous preexisting case law is not required  
 20 to show that a right was clearly established.” *White v. Lee*, 227 F.3d 1214, 1238 (9th Cir. 2000).  
 21 “Otherwise, [officials] would escape responsibility for the most egregious forms of conduct  
 22 simply because there was no case on all fours prohibiting that particular manifestation of  
 23 unconstitutional conduct.” *Deorle*, 272 F.3d at 1285. In other words, there may be no published  
 24 cases with facts exactly like these because of the obviousness of the illegality. *See Sorrels v.*  
 25 *McKee*, 290 F.3d 965, 970 (9th Cir. 2002); *K.H. Through Murphy v. Morgan*, 914 F.2d 846, 851  
 26 (7th Cir. 1990) (“The easiest cases do not even arise. There has never been a section 1983 case  
 27 accusing welfare officials of selling foster children into slavery; it does not follow that if such a  
 28 case arose, the officials would be immune from damages liability because no previous case had

1 found liability in those circumstances.”). Accordingly, the “standard is one of fair warning: where  
 2 the contours of the right have been defined with sufficient specificity that a state official had fair  
 3 warning that her conduct deprived a victim of his rights, she is not entitled to qualified  
 4 immunity.” *Haugen v. Brosseau*, 339 F.3d 857, 873 (9th Cir. 2003); *see also Hope v. Pelzer*, 536  
 5 U.S. 730, 740 n.10 (2002). Nonetheless, as discussed below, preexisting in-circuit and out-of-  
 6 circuit cases placed the officers on notice that their conduct and uses of force violated the  
 7 constitution.

8 At summary judgment stage, viewing the facts in the light most favorable to Plaintiffs,  
 9 Bruce and Maxwell used unreasonable force when Bruce approached a slow-moving vehicle,  
 10 whose driver had not attempted to assault anyone and had not been given any commands or  
 11 warning that the officers wanted her to stop or that she was under arrest, and began to strike the  
 12 driver’s window with his baton; and when Bruce directed Maxwell to shoot Decedent and  
 13 Maxwell did so, despite Decedent never posing an immediate threat of death or serious bodily  
 14 injury to anyone as the vehicle was stopped when the shooting started and Bruce was neither  
 15 pinned underneath the vehicle nor in the pathway and in danger of being run over by the vehicle.  
 16 Under these facts, preexisting case law within the Ninth Circuit placed the officers on notice that  
 17 their uses of force violated the constitution.

18 *1. It was Clearly Established that Bruce’s Baton Strikes Violated the Constitution*

19 In *Johnson v. White*, the Eleventh Circuit noted that “officers may not use substantial force  
 20 to apprehend a nonthreatening suspect who has committed only a minor offense and is not  
 21 resisting arrest” in holding that the officers were not entitled to qualified immunity for using a  
 22 baton to break the driver’s side window and pull plaintiff out of the car even though the plaintiff  
 23 refused commands to get out of the car and was warned that if he did not comply the officer would  
 24 break the window. 725 F. App’x 868, 872 876-77 (9th Cir. 2018). In *Robbins v. Chronister*, the  
 25 district court held that an officer’s use of his baton to smash the driver’s side window in an  
 26 attempt to pull the plaintiff out of the car after the plaintiff refused to comply with commands to  
 27 get out and instead engaged the door locks and began to reverse his car into the officer’s car was  
 28 unreasonable because at the time the officer approached the vehicle, the plaintiff did not pose an



1 immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others. 156 F. Supp. 2d 1211, 1213, 1216 (D.  
2 Kansas 2001). Similarly here, Decedent had not committed a crime, was not resisting arrest at the  
3 time Bruce approached and struck the window as neither officer had told Decedent that she was  
4 under arrest or issued any commands to Decedent, and Decedent did not pose an immediate threat  
5 to the safety of the officers or others as she very slowly reversed her vehicle with no one in the  
6 pathway of the vehicle. Accordingly, these cases are sufficient to place Bruce on notice that his  
7 use of the baton to strike Decedent's driver's window was unconstitutional under the  
8 circumstances.

9 Even if the Court were to find that the cases above are not sufficiently analogous, Plaintiffs  
10 submit that Bruce's baton strikes were an "obvious case" of excessive force against a non-  
11 threatening person. "As the [Supreme] Court explained in [*Rivas-Villegas v. Cortesluna*], in an  
12 obvious case, the standards set forth in *Graham* and *Garner*, though case at a high level of  
13 generality, can clearly establish that a constitutional violation has occurred even without a body of  
14 relevant case law." *Estate of Aguirre v. Cnty. of Riverside*, 29 F.4th 624, 629 (9th Cir. 2022)  
15 (cleaned up) (citing *Rivas-Villegas v. Cortesluna*, 595 U.S. 1, 6 (2021)); *see also Taylor v. Riojas*,  
16 592 U.S. 7, 8-9 (2020) (reaffirming *Hope*'s holding that "a general constitutional rule already  
17 identified in the decisional law may apply with obvious clarity to the specific conduct in  
18 question") (per curiam); *A.D. v. State of Cal. Highway Patrol*, 712 F.3d 446, 455 (9th Cir. 2013);  
19 *Hope*, 536 U.S. at 740-41. Under Plaintiffs' facts, Decedent had not committed a crime, did not  
20 pose a threat of safety to anyone, and was not resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by  
21 flight when Bruce used his baton to attempt to smash open the driver's side window since the  
22 officers did not have enough to detain Decedent or place her under arrest, a reasonable officer  
23 would not have believed that Decedent had attempted to assault the officers when the vehicle  
24 moved forward, and neither officer ever gave Decedent any commands or a warning, including  
25 any indication that they intended to detain her and wanted her to stop the vehicle, prior to the  
26 baton strikes.

27 //

28 //



1           2. *It was Clearly Established that the Shooting of Decedent Violated the Constitution*

2           The Ninth Circuit stated in *Villanueva v. California*, “We have consistently found use of  
3 deadly force to stop a slow-moving vehicle unreasonable when officers could have easily stepped  
4 out of the vehicle’s path to avoid danger,” and ultimately held that the cases of *Acosta v. City and*  
5 *County of San Francisco* and *Orn v. City of Tacoma*, placed the defendant officers on notice in  
6 2016 that their shooting at a vehicle that was stopped shortly before the shooting and slowly  
7 moved but did not accelerate when the officers opened fire violated the constitution. 986 F.3d at  
8 1162, 1172-73. In *Acosta v. City and County of San Francisco*, the Ninth Circuit held that the  
9 officer was not entitled to qualified immunity for shooting at the driver of a vehicle that was  
10 moving or rolling very slowly from a standstill—so slowly that the officer could not have  
11 reasonably believed that it posed a threat of great bodily harm despite the officer being in the  
12 pathway of the vehicle. 83 F.3d 1143, 1146 (9th Cir. 1996), *as amended* (June 18, 1996),  
13 *abrogated on other grounds by Saucier v. Katz*, 533 U.S. 194, 121 S.Ct. 2151, 150 L.Ed.2d 272  
14 (2001). In *Orn v. City of Tacoma*, the Ninth Circuit reaffirmed the principles stated in *Acosta* in  
15 holding that the officer was not entitled to qualified immunity for shooting at a moving vehicle  
16 that had previously led the officer in a 15-minute slow-speed pursuit and had clipped one of the  
17 police SUVs because “if [the driver] did not accelerate until after being shot, a reasonable jury  
18 could conclude that [the officer] lacked an objectively reasonable basis to fear for his own safety,  
19 as he could simply have stepped back to avoid being injured.” 949 F.3d at 1173, 1179. Similarly  
20 here, the vehicle never accelerated prior to the shooting and was stopped at the time Maxwell  
21 opened fire. Additionally, under Plaintiffs’ facts, Bruce was not pinned underneath the vehicle and  
22 was not in the pathway of the vehicle when Maxwell opened fire and thus could have simply  
23 moved away from the vehicle.

24           Preexisting out-of-circuit and district court cases provided further notice to the officers that  
25 the use of deadly force against Decedent under these circumstances was unconstitutional. *See*  
26 *Kirby v. Duva*, 530 F.3d 475 (6th Cir. 2008) (denying qualified immunity because a reasonable  
27 officer would not have believed that a vehicle slowly moving in a non-aggressive manner could  
28 have posed a threat of serious physical harm); *Smith v. Cupp*, 430 F.3d 766 (6th Cir. 2005)

(denying qualified immunity because although the officer was in the path of the decedent's vehicle, the officer was not in any danger when he shot four times at the moving vehicle); *Kosakoff v. City of San Diego*, No. 08-CV-1819, 2010 WL 1759455, at \*6 (S.D. Cal. Apr. 29, 2010) (denying qualified immunity in part because the car was moving slowly and the shots took place after the officer was already in a position of safety).

Plaintiffs submit that these cases where “[the] officer act[ed] under similar circumstances as [Bruce and Maxwell and] was held to have violated the Fourth Amendment,” *White v. Pauly*, 137 S. Ct. 548, 551 (2017), are sufficient to put the officers on notice that their uses of force, including deadly force, violated Decedent’s Fourth Amendment to be free from unreasonable and excessive force.

D. Maxwell and Bruce Violated Plaintiffs’ Fourteenth Amendment Right to Against Unlawful Interference with Familial Relations

As discussed above, Bruce’s batons strike were unreasonable and excessive, Maxwell’s use of deadly force against Decedent was unreasonable and excessive, and Bruce was an integral participant in the use of deadly force. *See supra*, Section IV.B. Thus, their use of deadly force violated Plaintiffs’ right against unlawful interference of familial relations under the Fourteenth Amendment. The standard for whether due process violations under the Fourteenth Amendment has occurred is when official conduct “shocks the conscience,” *Wilkinson*, 610 F.3d at 554, but what that means “depends on the context,” *Tennison v. City & Cnty. of San Francisco*, 570 F.3d 1078, 1089 (9th Cir. 2009); *see also Cnty. of Sacramento v. Lewis*, 523 U.S. 833, 846 (1998). In *Tennison*, the Ninth Circuit made clear that acting with “deliberate indifference to or reckless disregard for [a person’s] rights” was “consistent with the standard imposed in the substantive due process context, in which government action may violate due process if it ‘shocks the conscience.’” 570 F.3d at 1089. The Ninth Circuit has further explained: “Deliberate indifference is the conscious or reckless disregard of the consequences of one’s acts or omissions. It entails something more than negligence but is satisfied by something less than acts or omissions for the very purpose of causing harm or with knowledge that harm will result.” *Gantt v. City of Los Angeles*, 717 F.3d 702, 708 (9th Cir. 2013).

1           Bruce's decision to use the baton to try to smash the driver's window and pull Decedent  
2 out was not a split-second decision. No one was in danger or at risk of being struck by the vehicle  
3 nor was the vehicle in the process of fleeing at the time Bruce approached and struck the vehicle's  
4 window. Additionally, under Plaintiffs' facts, where Decedent had not committed a crime prior to  
5 the baton strikes, was free to leave, and neither officer had attempted to communicate with  
6 Decedent or give Decedent commands, a reasonable jury could find that Bruce's baton strikes  
7 were a particularly egregious escalation of force that "shocks the conscience."

8           Moreover, the officers' use of deadly force was not a split-second decision. Bruce directed  
9 Maxwell to shoot Decedent and Maxwell had sufficient time to assess the situation before  
10 discharging his weapon. Under Plaintiffs' facts, Bruce was not pinned underneath the vehicle nor  
11 in immediate danger of being run over by the vehicle. Thus, a reasonable jury could conclude that  
12 the officers' conduct shocks the conscience and showed a deliberate indifference or reckless  
13 disregard for Decedent's and Plaintiffs' rights.

14           The officers are also not entitled to qualified immunity under Plaintiffs' Fourteenth  
15 Amendment claim, as the case of *A.D. v. California Highway Patrol*, 712 F.3d 446 (9th Cir. 2013)  
16 had similarly analogous facts that provided fair notice that their conduct would violate the  
17 Fourteenth Amendment. In *A.D.*, the Ninth Circuit affirmed the district court's denial of qualified  
18 immunity under the Fourteenth Amendment to an officer who shot 12 times at a driver who had  
19 led officers on a stolen vehicle pursuit and had repeatedly yelled "fuck you" to the shooting officer  
20 but whose vehicle was contained in a deadend street where no officer was in the direct pathway of  
21 the vehicle and was either stopped or going forward at the time of the shooting. 712 F.3d at 450,  
22 458. Under these facts, the Ninth Circuit determined that it was clearly established that a  
23 reasonable police officer in the shooting officer's position would have known that the shooting  
24 violated due process. 712 F.3d at 454-55. Here, while Bruce alleges that Decedent cursed at him  
25 during their conversation and while she was operating her vehicle, neither Bruce nor Maxwell was  
26 in the direct pathway of the vehicle, the vehicle slightly moved forward before stopping prior to  
27 the start of the shooting, and a reasonable jury could find that the vehicle only moved forward  
28 after the first two shots because the shots had struck and incapacitated Decedent, causing her to

1 lose control of the vehicle. Accordingly, A.D. placed Bruce and Maxwell on notice that their use  
 2 of deadly force under similar circumstances violated Decedent's Fourteenth Amendment due  
 3 process rights.

4 E. Summary Judgment Must Be Denied on Plaintiffs' State Law Battery Claim

5 Under California law, a battery claim arising out of excessive force by a peace officer is  
 6 evaluated by way of traditional Fourth Amendment analysis under *Graham*. See *Munoz v. City of*  
 7 *Union City*, 120 Cal. App. 4th 1077 (2004). As previously discussed, a reasonable jury could find  
 8 Bruce's baton strikes to be excessive and unreasonable under Plaintiffs' facts, as no crime had  
 9 been committed and neither officer ever attempted to communicate with Decedent to tell her they  
 10 wanted her to stop or that she was being detained nor did they give her any commands prior to  
 11 Bruce escalating the encounter with the baton strikes to the driver's side window.

12 Additionally, the California Civil Jury Instruction for battery by a peace officer by deadly  
 13 force provides, "A peace officer may use deadly force only when *necessary* in defense of human  
 14 life." Judicial Council of California Civil Jury Instructions No. 1305B, Battery by Peace Officer  
 15 (Deadly Force) – Essential Factual Elements (2023) (emphasis added). Deadly force is necessary  
 16 to defend human life "only if a reasonable officer in the same situation would have believed, based  
 17 on the totality of the circumstances known to or perceived [by the officer] at the time, that deadly  
 18 force was necessary to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm..."

19 CACI 1305B. The instruction further states:

20 A threat of death or serious bodily injury is "imminent" when...a person has the  
 21 *present ability, opportunity, and apparent intent to immediately* cause death or  
 22 serious bodily injury to the peace officer or another person. An imminent harm is  
 23 not merely a fear of future harm, *no matter how great the fear and no matter how*  
*great the likelihood of the harm*, but is one that, from appearances, must be instantly  
 confronted and addressed.

24 CACI 1305B (emphasis added).

25 Here, viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to Plaintiffs, Decedent did not pose  
 26 an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to Bruce or anyone else at the time of the  
 27 shooting. Bruce was not pinned underneath the vehicle and was not in the direct pathway of the  
 28 vehicle when Maxwell opened fire. Defendants' contention that Plaintiff could have run over

1 Bruce's body or head had the vehicle moved forward with counterclockwise steering is "merely a  
2 fear of future harm" as there is no indication that that was about to happen and therefore was not  
3 something that "must be instantly confronted and addressed." While it is disputed as to whether  
4 Decedent had the present ability, opportunity, or apparent intent to immediately cause death or  
5 serious bodily injury prior to the first two shots, it is apparent that none of those requirements  
6 existed at the time of the five subsequent shots as Decedent had clearly been incapacitated by the  
7 first two shots and Bruce was able to move away from the vehicle. Additionally, in considering  
8 the "totality of the circumstances" surrounding an officer's use of deadly force, the California  
9 Civil Jury Instruction for battery by a peace officer by deadly force instructs that the jury may  
10 consider whether the officer "knew or had reason to know that the person against whom [the  
11 officers] used force was suffering from a physical, mental health, developmental, or intellectual  
12 disability," and the officer's "tactical conduct and decisions before using deadly force." CACI  
13 1305B. Under Plaintiffs' facts, both officers knew or had reason to know that Decedent was  
14 suffering from a mental illness and made poor tactical choices and errors, including failing to  
15 follow their training regarding de-escalation in dealing with mentally-ill persons, moving to a  
16 position of safety and cover, and choosing to not issue commands or a warning prior to their uses  
17 of force. Under these facts, a reasonable jury could find that the officers used unreasonable deadly  
18 force against Decedent.

19 F. Maxwell and Bruce were Negligent in Their Pre-Force Conduct and Use of Force

20 Curiously, Defendants note that Plaintiffs' negligence claim is being brought as a wrongful  
21 death claim but fail to note that Plaintiffs' battery claim is a wrongful death claim. *See* First  
22 Amended Complaint, Dkt. No. 13. To clarify, Plaintiffs assert wrongful death under two separate  
23 theories of liability: battery and negligence. Moreover, Defendants fail to analyze the officers' pre-  
24 shooting conduct, only arguing that their conduct was reasonable because "the incident occurred in  
25 seconds or minutes."

26 The California Supreme Court "has long recognized that peace officers have a duty to act  
27 reasonably when using deadly force." *Hayes v. Cnty. of San Diego*, 57 Cal.4th 622, 629 (2013).  
28 "[A]n officer's lack of due care can give rise to negligence liability for the intentional shooting

1 death of a suspect.” *Munoz v. Olin*, 24 Cal. 3d 629, 634 (1979). California “state negligence law,  
 2 which considers the totality of the circumstances surrounding any use of []force, is broader than  
 3 federal Fourth Amendment law, which tends to focus more narrowly on the moment when []force  
 4 is used.” *Hayes*, 57 Cal.4th at 639 (internal citations omitted). The totality of the circumstances  
 5 necessarily includes the officer’s “tactical conduct and decisions leading up to the use of []force.”  
 6 *See id.* at 637-38; see also *Grudt v. City of Los Angeles*, 2 Cal.3d 575, 588 (1970) (failure to  
 7 follow policies is evidence of negligence); *Mulligan v. Nichols*, 835 F.3d 983, 991 (9th Cir. 2016).  
 8 “Under California law, the officer’s pre-shooting decisions can render his behavior unreasonable  
 9 under the totality of the circumstances, even if his use of deadly force at the moment of the  
 10 shooting might be reasonable in isolation.” *Tabares*, 988 F.3d at 1125 (citing *Mendez v. Cnty. of*  
 11 *Los Angeles*, 897 F.3d 1067, 1082–83 (9th Cir. 2018); *Grudt*, 2 Cal.3d at 587); *see also Mulligan*,  
 12 835 F.3d at 991.

13 As previously discussed, the officers made poor tactical decisions and tactical errors. In  
 14 *Tabares v. City of Huntington Beach*, a case in which the officer deployed his Taser causing the  
 15 mentally-ill decedent to engage in a physical altercation with the officer, the Ninth Circuit found  
 16 that a reasonable jury could find that the officer acted negligently in his pre-shooting conduct  
 17 when he failed to consider that the decedent may have had mental issues and failed to deescalate  
 18 the situation per P.O.S.T. training regarding potentially mentally ill individuals. *Tabares*, 988 F.3d  
 19 at 1127-28. Likewise here, the officers knew or should have known that Decedent was mentally ill  
 20 and should have acted pursuant to their training regarding de-escalation of incidents with  
 21 mentally-ill subjects in order to defuse the situation. Instead, the officers placed themselves near  
 22 the pathway of the moving vehicle and then moved closer to the moving vehicle in order to  
 23 escalate the situation with deployments of the baton and knife. The officers also did not attempt to  
 24 communicate with Decedent nor issue any commands or warnings prior to their uses of force and  
 25 did not attempt to communicate with each other. Moreover, Bruce’s unjustified baton strikes  
 26 unnecessarily escalated the encounter and was the catalyst for the proceeding events. Plaintiffs’  
 27 police practices expert opined that had the officers not made such poor tactical decisions and  
 28 errors, the shooting would not have happened. Under these facts, a jury could reasonably find that

1 the officers were negligent in their pre-force conduct and their uses of force, including deadly  
2 force.

3 G. Maxwell and Bruce Violated the Bane Act

4 “The elements of a Bane Act claim are essentially identical to the elements of a § 1983  
5 claim, with the added requirement that the government official had a ‘specific intent to violate’ a  
6 constitutional right.” *Hughes v. Rodriguez*, 31 F.4th 1211, 1224 (9th Cir. 2022) (citing *Reese v.*  
7 *Cnty. of Sacramento*, 888 F.3d 1030, 1043 (9th Cir. 2018)). To succeed on a claim under the Bane  
8 Act, a plaintiff must only show that the defendant acted with a specific intent to violate the  
9 plaintiff’s civil rights. *B.B. v. Cnty. of Los Angeles*, 25 Cal. App. 5th 115, 133 (2018) (rev’d on  
10 other grounds in *B.B. v. Cnty. of Los Angeles*, 10 Cal. 5th 1 (2020)). “[A] reckless disregard for a  
11 person’s constitutional rights is evidence of specific intent to deprive that person of those rights.”  
12 *Reese*, 888 F.3d at 1045.

13 In *B.B.*, one of the deputies continued to hold and apply weight to the prone suspect after  
14 the suspect had been handcuffed, had labored breathing, and went limp. 25 Cal. App. 5th at 134.  
15 Under those facts, the court held that there was sufficient evidence to raise a triable issue of fact as  
16 to the question of the defendant deputies’ intent because there was evidence that suggested the  
17 deputies deliberately subjected the suspect to excessive force beyond what was necessary to make  
18 the arrest. *Id.* “Once Defendants’ use of force crossed that threshold, their conduct became a  
19 coercive interference with [the decedent’s] civil rights as proscribed by the Bane Act.” *Id.*

20 Similarly here, Maxwell acted with a reckless disregard for Decedent’s rights, when, at the  
21 Bruce’s direction, he fired at Decedent even though Decedent did not pose an immediate threat of  
22 death or serious bodily injury to anyone at the time the shooting started. Maxwell’s additional five  
23 shots after it had become apparent Decedent had been struck and was incapacitated and Bruce was  
24 not in danger of being struck by the car is further evidence that Maxwell subjected Decedent to  
25 excessive force “beyond what was necessary to make the arrest.” A reasonable jury could also find  
26 that Bruce acted with a reckless disregard for Decedent’s rights when he struck her vehicle’s  
27 window with his baton in an attempt to detain Decedent even though Decedent had not committed  
28 a crime and was not a threat to anyone at the time. Accordingly, Defendants are not entitled to



1 summary judgment on Plaintiffs' Bane Act claim.

2 **V. CONCLUSION**

3 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request the Court deny Defendants'  
4 Motion for Summary Judgment, or in the Alternative Summary Adjudication as to Plaintiffs'  
5 Fourth Amendment Detention and Arrest claim, Fourth Amendment Excessive Force claim,  
6 Fourteenth Amendment Substantive Due Process claim, and state law claims for Battery,  
7 Negligence, and Violation of California Civil Code section 52.1 (Bane Act).

8  
9 Respectfully submitted,

10 DATED: May 13, 2024

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